

Soissons Captured by the Allies; French Gains 3 Miles on 40-Mile Line; Germans Now in Precipitate Retreat

Shuttle Plan Shut Off After Day of Chaos

"H" System Subway Opens With Wild Jam; Women Faint in Crush

Company Admits It Lacked in Facilities

Police Called Out to Keep Order in Crowds That Try to Find Right Train

After a day of confusion and overheated distress among the bewildered thousands who jammed the unfamiliar platforms of the new Interborough "H" system, the Public Service Commission stepped in last night and closed the shuttle system between the Grand Central and Times Square stations until further notice. The order becomes effective at midnight to-night.

The measure was adopted for the safety of the travelling public, it was stated by members of the commission. The action was taken after a conference between Interborough officers and representatives of the commission, hastily called at the Harvard Club.

The inability of the Interborough to handle the great cross-town crowds was admitted by the company officers, and time was asked to provide adequate facilities for shuttle trains.

"There is no question but the closing of the shuttle will greatly inconvenience the travelling public," said a member of the commission last night, "but there is nothing else to be done. Workmen must be given an opportunity to construct proper trackage at the Times Square end of the line, and to do this traffic will have to be shut down temporarily. It may be a week before the service is resumed."

"North and south bound trains will continue over the new systems of through tracks. The Broadway train will run on Seventh Avenue below Times Square, and the Bronx trains will have their present routing. The main difficulty will be the accommodation of Brooklyn passengers on the Broadway lines. Interborough officials have arranged to issue transfers at Rector Street, and passengers may thus continue their trip over the old line from the Wall Street station."

Women were dazed, crying and fainting last night from the bewildered mass of humanity that packed the labyrinth of tunnels, aisles and passageways forming the Grand Central station of the new system. From 5 o'clock until after 8 those steaming chambers were jammed so full of men, women and children that they moved as a compact, slothful body, and the extrication of those who succumbed to heat and nerves was a simple task. Police reserves were barely able to stem the tide.

The drug store in the station was turned into an emergency hospital, where ambulance surgeons soothed and restored the victims of the tunnel.

At the Times Square station, on the evening rush hour also brought a throng that completely swamped the facilities for handling it. The morning rush, however, was worse than that in the evening, just as conditions in the evening were worse at the Grand Central station than they had been in the morning.

Company Blames Public

Interborough officials were inclined to take the view that part of the confusion was the result of the chuck-headed tendencies of a New York crowd confronted by changed conditions. Chuckle-headed the crowd may have been, morning and evening, but it kept its head and its temper in remarkably good order. Neither the fact that old and misleading signs had been allowed to remain to misdirect them nor the piling and apparently aimless gait necessitated by their numbers irritated the men and women in the crowd that was on the verge of becoming a mob.

Curious questions of "How do I get to the Bronx?" from individuals who could not have moved more than a fraction of a foot in any direction save the vertical, brought a clamor of jutting and almost, but not quite, jeering advice from fellow sufferers.

Crowd Kept in a Panic

The tens of thousands of home going workers had but one passageway to the Grand Central Station and the Times Square station last night. The congestion, which in any direction had made chaos of the Times Square station, in the new subway, shifted at the other end of the shuttle, where the crowds who worked on the East Side downtown sought to make their

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Archangel Frontier Is Ordered Closed 14 Days

AMSTERDAM, Aug. 2.—An official statement received here from Moscow says that the Archangel frontier has been closed for fourteen days, for military reasons.

Miracle Church Of Rheims Laid In Ruins by Foe

Historic Structure of St. Remi Sacrificed to German Vandalism

By Wilbur Forrest
(Special Cable to The Tribune)
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WITH THE FRENCH ARMIES, Aug. 2.—St. Remi Church, the miracle edifice of Rheims, which was fired by German incendiary shells on Wednesday, is today a smoking heap of ruins. The "Martyred City of Rheims"—a phrase used by almost every writer since the famous cathedral was ruined by the enemy—is now a martyr in every sense of the word.

For four years St. Remi Church, one of the last remaining of the priceless structures of Roman architecture in France, has stood unscathed. Even while the beautiful cathedral was being shattered by deliberate German bombardment no scratch marred the walls of this precious pile of stones, the first of which was placed in position in the year 1015.

Hope clung in the breasts of those who love art that peace might come some day and find St. Remi Church the same miracle of intactness that it has been while years of destruction wrought all around it.

Only Few Shells Needed

French officers and others in an observation post on the Mountain of Rheims late Wednesday afternoon, with the city laid out to the northward through the clear atmosphere beneath them, saw incendiary enemy missiles strike the famous church repeatedly. Columns of white smoke and dust rose into the air, and the observers, among whom were Catholics, gasped.

Some of the latter reverently made the sign of the cross, and all knew they were watching a priceless monument of worship sacrificed to German vandalism. All felt they were living through historic moments, for St. Remi, with its wonderful Roman architecture, began its career as a finished edifice just 179 years ago.

It required only a few incendiary shells from the German guns to reduce the venerable temple with all its history and art to a flaming mass, mercifully hidden at moments by swirls of its own smoke.

Named for Archbishop

St. Remi was an archbishop, born in the sixth century. He baptized Clovis, the first king of the Franks to turn from heathenism to Christianity. He later became a saint, and the edifice now burned was erected in his memory. Robes worn by the archbishop, which had been kept in the church throughout the centuries, were saved by an intrepid French soldier under heavy shell-fire. Practically nothing else was saved.

That the destruction of the edifice was deliberate stands out. The Germans know full well that above ground Rheims is deserted. The French soldiers lie in caves, but hold themselves in readiness to come out and defend the city. The enemy lines so surround the city that their observers are able to see into every street. Thus, with complete command of the city, shelling it can serve no military purpose. The guns are able at any moment to place missiles where they will, and this is why the French soldiers shun the surface.

From the sparing of St. Remi church for four years it seems evident that the eventual destruction of this monument was a result of the blind rage of defeat and a parallel crime with the sacking of Louvain, the killing of Edith Cavell and the torpedoing of the Lusitania.

During the French Revolution St. Remi was one of the richest churches in France, containing wealth of untold value in jewels and plate. Who took this wealth is one of the mysteries still locked in the smoking ruins—ruins which crashed down Wednesday night, covering the white marble tombs of St. Amouge and Archbishop St. Remi himself.

Famous Arch as Door

The abbey church of St. Remi, attached to the great Rheims Cathedral, was a noble Romanesque building, 350 feet long and 79½ wide. Its canopied Renaissance shrine bore the effigy of the saint after which it took its name and many statues.

The Porta Martia, a Roman triumphal arch which formed one of its domes, was said to have been dedicated by Agrippa in honor of Augustus. The edifice had three large archways of equal size, flanked by eight Corinthian pillars. Like the main cathedral, which dates from the thirteenth century, the abbey church had many windows of superb glass.

Foe Likely to Offer Battle Above Fismes

Headed for Strategic Plateau Southeast of Soissons

Sky Aflame From Burning Villages

Americans in Centre Are Clinging Close to Heels of Fleeing Germans

By Wilbur Forrest
(Special Cable to The Tribune)
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WITH THE FRENCH ARMIES, Aug. 2 (Night).—Harassed by the constant pressure of the Allied forces, the enemy to-day is again retreating toward the vast plateau southeast of Soissons, where Braisne, the communication centre, on the height, and Fismes, in the valley at the foot of the plateau, give him more advantageous positions.

With the American troops on both wings and Franco-British troops in the centre, the Allied soldiers advanced to-day through the villages which the enemy is mercilessly leaving in flames in his wake. Long before daylight the entire sky was lighted by the reflection of the fires, while the Allies continued in active pursuit of the fleeing foe.

Capture Rozoy Ridge

The conquest by the Allies of the wooded ridge north of the village of Grand Rozoy, having an average altitude of from 190 to 205 yards, was the turning point of the battle. On Wednesday the enemy fought desperately to retain these heights, which were defended by massed artillery in the rear and thousands of machine guns. These he lost, and to-day's retreat is the result.

Just under these heights, on Tuesday, I experienced the enemy's raking artillery, which was active over the entire lower country, indicating his ardent desire to retain the heights.

This afternoon the Allies occupied Hartennes-et-Taux and the woods to the southward, the village of Contremain, and, after a short clash, North Haponay and Middy.

Foe's Resistance Feeble

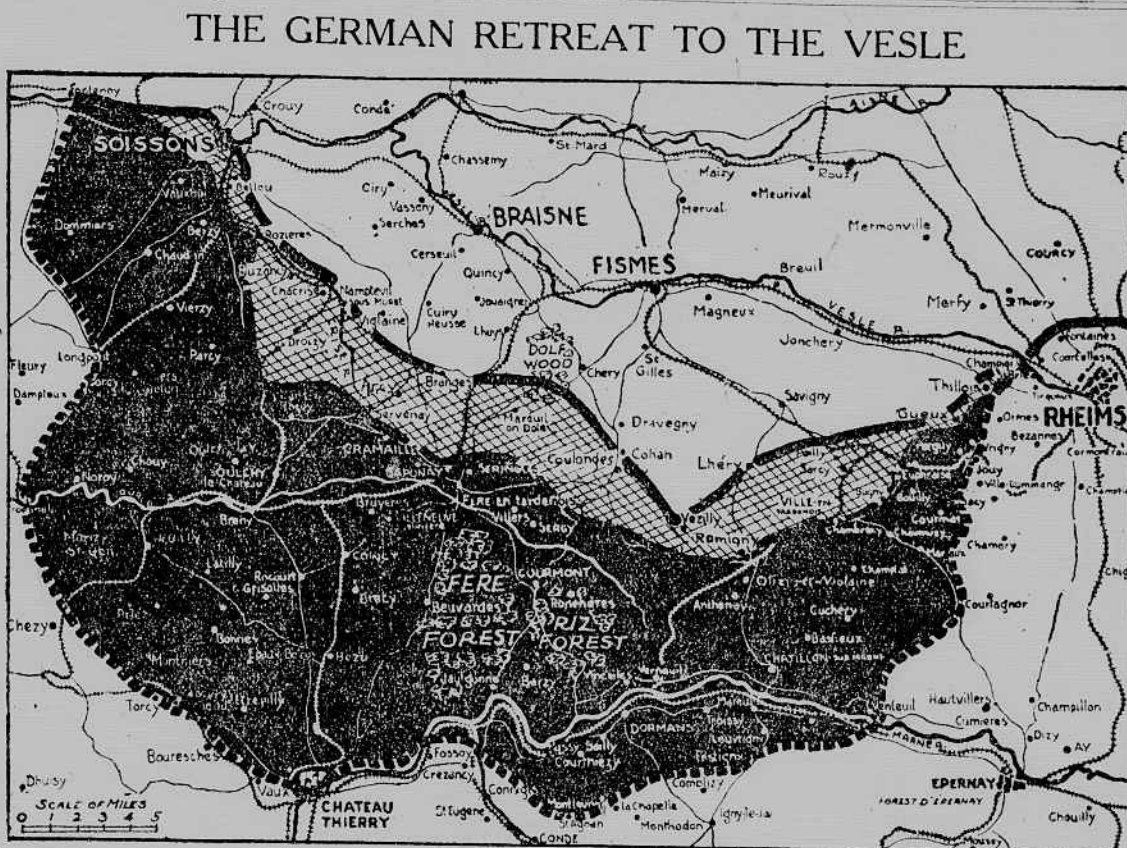
South of the Ourcq the Allied line pressed past the thickets north of Goussancourt, on the Coulouges road, and the Vezilly Woods. Here the enemy's resistance was feeble. On the eastern side of the battlefield the Germans finally took refuge in the wooded heights southwest of Rheims.

This afternoon the French advanced within a kilometre of Ville-en-Tardenois, and the infantry is within 500 yards of Villers-Agon. The woods 1,500 yards east of Romigny is occupied by the Allies, as is the village of Forzy.

The Allied advance was general until tonight.

German "Official Line" Is Broken by Allies

(Special Dispatch to The Tribune)
WASHINGTON, Aug. 2.—The "Frankfurter Zeitung" stated on July 30 that the German front had been definitely fixed on the Soissons-Villemonitire-Hartennes-Fere-en-Tardenois-Ville-en-Tardenois-Thillois line, and this information, compared with the last official Allied communiqué gives the impression that the new German line of resistance has already been forced, says a telegram received by the French Mission to-day.



Foch's armies yesterday occupied the criss-cross shaded area. The solid black represents their previous gains since July 18.

The recovery of Soissons and the ground immediately to the south and east of it by the Allies means the loss to the enemy of one of the two anchor points on which he expected to swing his final campaign for the destruction of the French and American armies and the capture of Paris. Soissons was one of his great bases; Rheims was to have been the other. With these two cities in his hands he hoped to crush through the very heart of France and brush past the shattered Franco-American armies on a vast parade to Paris. Now he is striving desperately to reach the protection of the Aisne, which saved him in 1914.

U.S. Soldiers Gain 5 Miles As Foe Flees

Pershing Reports Germans Destroying Supplies as Americans Advance

WASHINGTON, Aug. 2.—American troops pursuing the enemy, whose forces on the Soissons-Rheims front began to fall back this morning, have penetrated to a depth of five miles, and their progress is continuing, General Pershing reported in to-day's communiqué received late to-night by the War Department.

In Thursday's fighting American troops captured Hill 230, south of Coulouges, and the wood east of the hill. American aviators last night successfully bombed the railroad station and yards at Conflans, numerous hits being made, the communiqué says.

The text of the statement follows: "Section A—Yesterday on the line of the Ourcq our troops in hard fighting captured Hill 230, south of Coulouges and the wood east of the hill. This morning the enemy, relinquishing his efforts to stop our advance, commenced to fall back with our troops in close pursuit. The fire of our artillery has interrupted his communication, and he is attempting to destroy large quantities of material. Our advance, which has already progressed to a depth of five miles, continues."

"Last night our aviators successfully bombed the railroad station and yards at Conflans. Numerous hits were made, causing several fires and one large explosion. All of our machines returned."

Easy Victory
(By The Associated Press)

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY ON THE AISNE-MARNE FRONT, Aug. 2 (8 p. m.).—Another jump forward was made to-day by the French and Americans on the Aisne-Marne front. From one to two miles were gained, and with almost no fighting.

Plans had been made to strike hard blows against the resisting German rear, but the German war council evidently had decided that the time was inopportune to fight, for when the Allies moved forward

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The Official Statements

FRENCH

PARIS (NIGHT).—Attacks conducted during the past two days by our troops and Allied units on the front north of the Marne have obtained full success, the Germans having been pushed back over all the line and forced to abandon the positions of resistance they had chosen between Fere-en-Tardenois and Ville-en-Tardenois, and to retreat precipitately.

On our left our troops have entered Soissons.

More to the south they have crossed the Crise along the whole of the river front.

On our centre we are progressing widely north of the Ourcq. We have passed Arcy-Sainte-Respite and penetrated the Bois de Dole.

More to the east, Coulouges, four kilometres north of the Bois Meunier, is in our possession.

On our right Goussancourt, Villers-Agon and Ville-en-Tardenois are in our hands.

On this part of the front we carried our line about five kilometres north of the Dormans-Rheims road on the general line of Vezilly and Lheroy.

Between the Ardre and the Vesle we have occupied Gueux and Thillois.

PARIS (DAY).—During the night French troops made new progress north of the Marne.

LONDON (DAY).—A few prisoners were captured by our patrols yesterday in the neighborhood of Festubert.

During the night English troops carried out a successful raid north of Albert, capturing sixteen prisoners and a machine gun.

The hostile artillery has shown somewhat increased activity south of the Somme and south of Ypres, and has been active also north of Bethune.

GERMAN

BERLIN (NIGHT).—On the battlefield there has been desultory fighting.

BERLIN (DAY).—Between Soissons and Fere-en-Tardenois the enemy yesterday continued his useless attacks. Strong artillery duels preceded these attacks, which were directed in the morning against our front on both sides of Villemonitire and in the afternoon extended as far south as Hartennes. They were repulsed before our lines, sometimes in hand-to-hand fighting. Here the enemy once again suffered complete failure, without any gain in territory.

Bringing the strongest forces into action, British and French divisions attacked in the early morning from the line north of Grand Rozoy and Fere-en-Tardenois. On both sides of Beugneux their tanks, crossing our front lines, were able to reach the height north of this place. Here our artillery shot them to pieces.

Between Cramaille and Fere-en-Tardenois attacks by the enemy's infantry, in strong force, and tanks broke down before our line. Strong enemy firing between Fere-en-Tardenois and the Bois Meunier was followed by infantry attacks only north of Cierges. They were repulsed.

Holtzendorff, Apologist for U-Boats, Is "Retired" by Kaiser

COPENHAGEN, Aug. 2.—Admiral von Holtzendorff, chief of the German Admiralty Staff, has been retired for reasons of health, according to an announcement by the semi-official Wolff Bureau of Berlin.

Admiral Reinhardt Scheer, commander of the battle fleet, has been designated to succeed him.

Admiral von Holtzendorff was recalled from retirement and appointed head of the German Admiralty Staff in July, 1916. This appointment was reported at the time as being regarded in Berlin as a rebuke to the admirals concerned in the battle with the British fleet off the coast of Jutland, and

an official admission that the outcome was not a German victory, as had been claimed.

In a statement to the "Cologne Gazette" July 29, Admiral von Holtzendorff explained the reason why German U-boats were not sinking American transports. He said that owing to the many points of debarkation at the disposal of the Americans from the North of Scotland to the Mediterranean, the irregular passage of the transports and the strength of the destroyer guards which accompanied them, it was inexpedient for the U-boats to lurk off these harbors on the chance of getting a shot at them.

The real object of the U-boats, the admiral declared, was to reduce enemy cargo space, for on this depended the ability of the Allies to continue the war.

Scores of Towns Taken With Many More Prisoners

Franco-Americans Push Across River Crise in Wake of Teutons, Who Fire Villages and Vast Stores; All Heights Dominated

London Thinks Enemy Defeat May Be Turning Point of War

Allies Still Driving Ahead Along Whole Salient From Rheims to Soissons; Crown Prince Likely to Retire to the Vesle, and Possibly the Aisne

The French armies have recaptured Soissons.

Under the terrific hammering of Foch's armies, the enemy yesterday swept backward in full retreat from his broken line of defence along the forty-mile front from Soissons to Rheims.

The Allied armies last night had advanced from two to five miles along the entire front, had captured scores of villages and had taken new harvests of prisoners from the foe's beaten forces. At latest reports the Allies were still driving forward at all points.

Must Go to the Vesle, and Possibly the Aisne

With the dominating points of the whole fighting region in Allied hands, the crisis of the summer campaign and possibly the turning point of the war has been reached, in the opinion of the Allied military experts.

The smashing of the tip of the now fast disappearing Aisne-Marne salient will force the enemy to fall back beyond the Vesle, possibly to the Aisne.

The enemy in his precipitate retreat is burning enormous stores to prevent their falling into Allied hands. Again and again in the fighting he struck feebly at the attacking Allied forces, attempting in vain to block their onrush. His resistance everywhere was crushed by the withering Allied fire.

French Storm Into Soissons and Over the Crise

On the west wing of the Crown Prince's receding line the French stormed their way into Soissons, the western key to the foe's positions, and below the city threw their armies across the Crise River that runs toward the southeast.

In the centre of the line the Allies made wide gains north of the Ourcq, hurling the enemy back for large gains along the wide tip of the pocket. Even west of Rheims, where fighting has been light throughout the counter drive, new blows captured two villages and added important gains to Foch's gigantic success.

(By The Associated Press.)

WITH THE FRENCH ARMIES IN FRANCE, Aug. 2 (11:30 p. m.).—Soissons has been retaken and the Valley of the Crise has been crossed.

The Allied line this evening runs from Pommiers to Soissons, thence to Belleu, the valley of the Crise, Chancise and Arcy-St. Restitue, through the centre of the forest of Nesles to the village of the same name and through the centre of the Forest of Rheims, to Lagery, Lheroy and Tramey. North of the last named three places French cavalry has advanced about another mile to the Bois le Mone and Treslon. Brouillet is still in the enemy's hands, in flames, and further east, near Rheims, Trillois has been retaken.

The day was one of continued success for the armies of Generals Mangin, Degoutte and Berthelot. All along the line the Germans have been forced to hurry their retreat, especially on the west and centre of the salient. The enemy is completely devastating the country as he retreats, carrying out the settled German policy.

The French are now on the edge of the plateau between Therise and Vesle, after an advance which at some places was three miles deep, within seven miles of Fismes. The enemy, it now seems certain, must retire to the Vesle, and very probably to the Aisne.

The Germans are in retreat on all sides of the salient between the Aisne and the Marne. On the west the

French and British troops, continuing their push of Thursday, have reached the valley of the Crise, a little river which joins the Aisne at Soissons.

The Germans, therefore, have abandoned the whole of the Chaudun Plateau, between the Couevres and Crise Valley.

This ground had been a desperately disputed battlefield for weeks. It had been swept by the German heavy guns from the north of the line and from the east, and probably was the hottest sector of the whole battlefield.

In the centre the French cavalry are in the big woods called the Forêt de Nesles, a mile northeast of Fere-en-Tardenois. On the Allied left the troops are in touch with the forests of the Ardre, two miles north of Villers-Agon.

The Germans, disregarding the military considerations which counselled frank acceptance of defeat and rapid retreat many days ago in order to spare their men for a new attempt, have been obliged to accept the inevitable and are falling back, probably to the Vesle River.

The German Crown Prince's offensive on the Marne has failed as signally as that of von Kluck in 1914, and the last word is with the Allies.

(Noon).—The battle on the front north of the Marne resolved itself during the night and this morning into almost a general retirement of the enemy north of the Ourcq, with the